

Message Text

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65-60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 EB-07 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

CEA-01 AF-06 SS-15 NSC-05 EA-07 PA-01 PRS-01 SAJ-01

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R 081739Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7014

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 03870

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, PFOR, CY, GW

SUBJ: ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINISTER BAHR'S CONCERNS
OVER UNCTAD IV.

1. DURING MY MARCH 8 CONVERSATION WITH ECONOMIC COOPERATION MINISTER BAHR, HE SAID HE WAS MOST ANXIOUS TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH SOMEONE ON THE AMERICAN SIDE TO DISCUSS THE OUTLOOK OF UNCTAD IV. BAHR TOLD ME THAT OUR POSITION SET FORTH IN THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSALS AT THE UN SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION HAD BEEN DECISIVE FOR THE SUCCESS OF THAT SESSION. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE U.S. WOULD NOT RETREAT FROM THIS POSITION.

2. HE WAS PARTICULARLY FEARFUL OF A U.S. RETREAT, SINCE HE SENSED A RETREAT IN THE MORE REASONABLE APPROACH OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN NEW YORK. FOR EXAMPLE, IN
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MANILA THEY MOVED BACKWARDS, AND BAHR SAID THAT IT WAS

EXCEEDINGLY IMPORTANT THIS YEAR THAT WE
DO SOMETHING CONCRETE.

3. BAHR REGRETTED THAT HIS PROPOSALS OF A DEBT
MORATORIUM HAD BEEN VETOED BOTH BY THE GERMAN FOREIGN
MINISTRY AND BY THE GERMAN FINANCE MINISTRY. HE WAS
PESSIMISTIC, HOWEVER, AS TO WHETHER WE COULD AVOID AN
OVERALL DEBT CONFERENCE THIS YEAR. THE ONLY POSSIBLE
APPROACH HE COULD SEE WOULD BE A SERIOUS EFFORT TO
SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED
DEBTORS AND THEREBY DEFLECT INTEREST IN AN OVERALL
CONFERENCE.

4. BAHR POINTED OUT THAT CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN
THE FRG AND THE U.S. DURING THE SPECIAL SESSION HAD
RESULTED IN AN ISOLATION OF THE USSR, AN ISOLATION
WHICH MAY HAVE TEMPTED THE SOVIETS INTO THEIR RECENT
AFRICAN INITIATIVES. I ASKED BAHR WHY HE THOUGHT THE
U.S. MIGHT BE RETREATING. HE COULD ONLY SAY THAT THE
POSITIONS OF SOME OF OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN PARIS
SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT WE MAY BE BACKTRACKING. I
ASSURED BAHR THAT WE HAD ABSOLUTELY NO INFORMATION TO
SUGGEST SUCH BACKTRACKING AND THAT WE IN THE EMBASSY
WERE ONLY AWARE OF DISCUSSIONS ON HOW SECRETARY
KISSINGER'S PROGRAM COULD BE EFFECTIVELY PURSUED.
HILLENBRAND

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